

The  
**County of Arthur**  
and  
**Melita District**

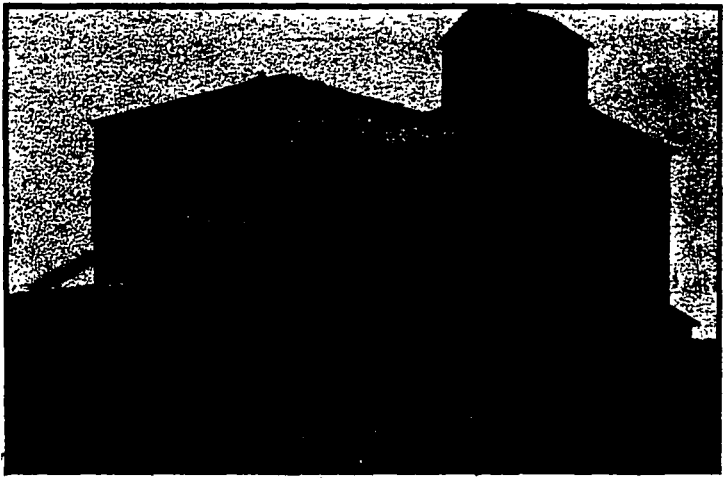
The Garden of  
**South-Western**  
**Manitoba-----**

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THE MELITA ROLLER MILL AND ELEVATOR

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## The Climate

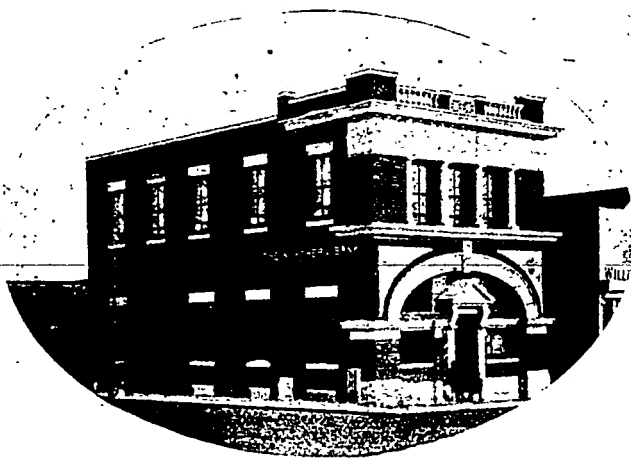
Southern Manitoba is noted for its clear skies and bright sunshine. The clear, bracing air of both summer and winter imbues one with new life and energy.

Spring usually begins about the 1st of April, though some seasons seeding commences in March, the snow having entirely disappeared by that time. Spring merges into summer and it is altogether impossible to describe the delights of that pleasant season. The long, sunny days and cool nights make life pleasant and agreeable.

We find in this fact an explanation of the remarkable growth of vegetation which exceeds anything known elsewhere in the same latitudes, some varieties of forest trees having been known to grow more than six feet in a single season.

Of all seasons of the year the Autumn is the most delightful. It always extends late into the month of November, giving the farmer ample opportunity not only for threshing and marketing his grain but also sufficient time for preparing his land for the following year's crop.

The Winter season generally begins early in December with scanty snow-fall until late in that month. The winters, although somewhat cold, have no dread for people who have experienced them. The reading of a record of temperatures is often mislead-



THE NEW NORTHERN BANK BUILDING, MELITA

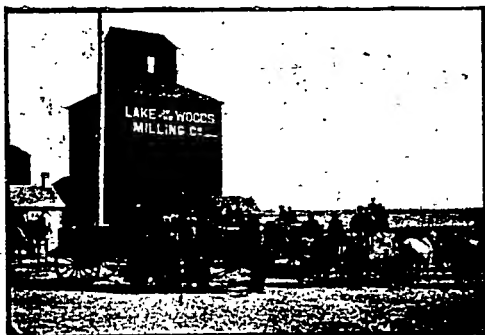
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ing, as humidity has as much to do with the comparative comfort or discomfort of a climate as temperature has, and owing to the dryness of the air in Western Canada the cold is not felt the same as in eastern and adjacent southern countries.

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## The Best Wheat Land in the World

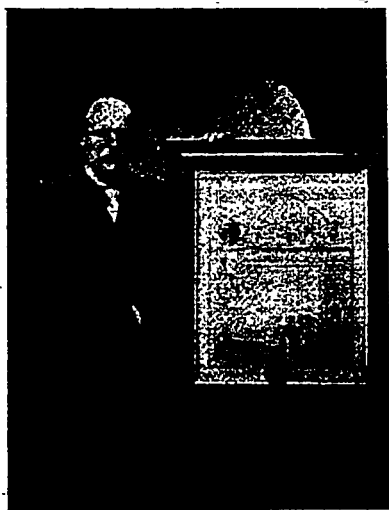
To say that Arthur County is the best wheat growing district in the world is saying a good deal but the results of the past ten years make good the statement. The land is specially suited for wheat growing, being drained by numerous creeks which find their outlet in the Souris River. The soil is such that it gives forth an abundant crop and at the same time produces that hard, flinty, bright wheat which is sought after in every market. The accompanying engraving illustrates the diploma awarded to Mr. Wm. Kilkenny, of 18, 5-27, for the best Red Fife wheat at the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The securing of such a diploma in competition with wheat from every country in the world is a distinction of which Manitoba, and Arthur County especially, may well feel proud. It is a well known fact that a larger percentage of the wheat grown in South-western Manitoba grades "No. 1 Hard" than from any other district in the Canadian West. Our land is easy of cultivation, being for the most part of a loamy nature with a deep clay sub-soil while in some places the surface will show a sandy loam rich in humus. The grain growers, therefore, of South-western Manitoba are at once placed in an en-



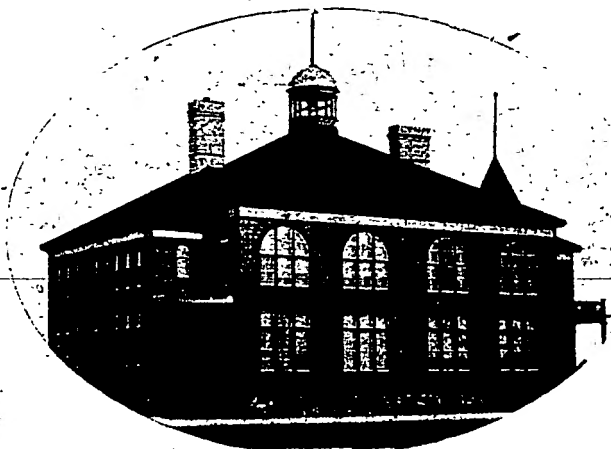
ONE OF MELITA'S FIVE ELEVATORS



viable position, being able to obtain the highest possible price for their produce. Were further proof of the superiority of South-western Manitoba wheat required to convince the reader pages might be written and markets recorded but we feel that the accompanying engraving will supply all the proof necessary. Altogether the southwest corner is the finest in the Canadian West as can be proven by the number of well-to-do retired farmers in the various towns. Come and get your share in this glorious country, where every man gets a square deal. We have room for many more.



MR. WILLIAM KILKENNY AND HIS DIPLOMA FOR WHEAT



MELITA'S EIGHT-ROOMED SCHOOL



## Educational Advantages

It is a matter of vital importance to the intending settler the provision made for the education of his children in the locality in which he intends to reside. It is just as important to the nation as it is to the individual that the facilities for education be adequate and efficient. In the matter of educational facilities this district is well supplied with Rural Schools so conveniently situated in each section that no pupil is further distant than three miles from the Schoolhouse. These schools are presided over by legally qualified teachers who are graduates of the Provincial Normal Schools and are capable of preparing pupils to pass the necessary examinations for entrance into High Schools or for Third Class Certificates.

In all towns and villages in this district there are Graded Schools which undertake extended tuition.

The Town of Melita, in the very centre of the populous and thriving district of the County of Arthur, possesses an up-to-date and fully equipped High School for the preparation of students up to Second Class Certificates for teachers, or for University Matriculation exams. The most modern equipment is provided and a well skilled and thoroughly efficient staff of teachers is constantly employed.



## Horticulture

This is a prairie country but when first settled there were large tracts of timber along the Souris River, the Antlers and at other



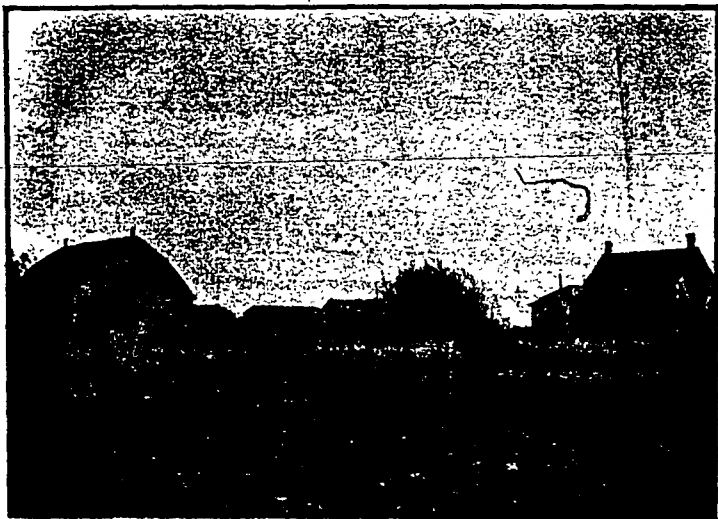
LAWN SCENE AT MR. R. M. GRAHAM'S COUNTRY RESIDENCE



places, affording protection from prairie fires. These lands are now largely denuded of large timber, except for an occasional elm standing as a reminder of the forests of earlier days. Fortunately a number of primeval elms have been preserved at River Park near Melita, which is one of the finest natural parks in the Province. Many thousands of young maples, elms, ash, poplars, cottonwoods, etc., have been transplanted from these forests to various rural and village homes, giving the farms and dwellings throughout the district a pleasing, homelike appearance. Several varieties of trees have been imported from the east and are grown with success. Among these are soft maple, mountain ash, white and cut-lea birch, and flowering shrubs.

Fruit growing is largely in the experimental stage, though nearly all kinds of small fruits have been successfully grown for years; also crabs, plums, and some of the hardier Russian varieties of apples. Heretofore farmers have found it more profitable to buy fruit than raise it, but with more leisure time and an increasing desire for luxuries and home comforts, fruit-growing will receive more attention from year to year.

As to vegetable-growing it is no exaggeration to say that this district is second to none in the whole Dominion. All standard garden and field vegetables attain their highest development in both size and quality, and the immense yields of large, clean, mealy potatoes of superior flavor, are unrivalled elsewhere in America.

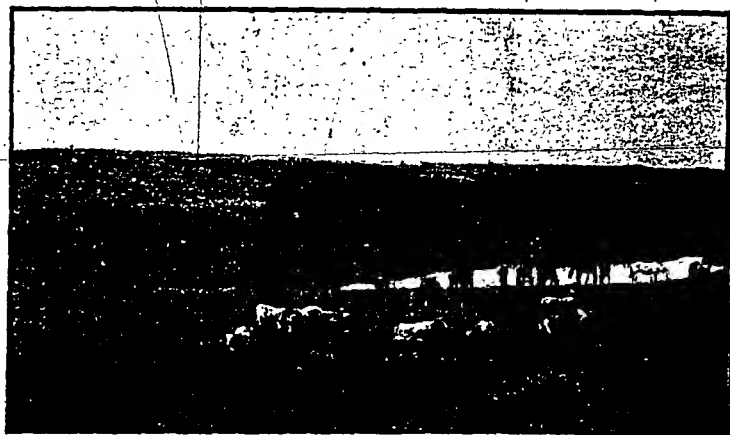


THE FARM HOME OF MR. D. TINDALL, ARTHUR COUNTY

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## Railway and Marketing Facilities

In seeking a home, especially a farm home, next to the quality of the land itself it is necessary to take into consideration the existence of modern facilities for making work easy and profitable. Chief amongst the latter are railroads. Old-timers who have spent years in pioneer farming under adverse conditions, often a long distance from a railway, are in no hurry to repeat the experience. Not only is the long haul a great hardship but the farmer who lives far from a railroad is not in a position to take advantage of favorable market prices. The settler who goes far west to seek lands a little cheaper should remember also that probably for all time he will be subject to higher freight rates both on what he buys and what he sells. For instance :—The freight rate on wheat to Port Arthur from Melita, Man., the centre of the district to which attention is being called in this pamphlet, is 15c. per 100 lbs., or 9c. per bushel ; while from Edmonton in Northern Alberta the rate is 28c. per 100 lbs., or 16 4-5c. per bushel, from Lethbridge in Southern Alberta the rate is 23c. per 100 lbs., from Saskatoon in Saskatchewan 24c, from Prince Albert 26c. per cwt. Taking Edmonton for comparison the difference to an average farmer, having say 4,000 bushels of wheat, would amount to nearly \$320.00 on one year's crop ; equal to a dollar an acre on half a section of land,



SCENE AT MR. DRIMSON'S ON SOURIS RIVER NEAR MELITA

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sufficient to pay the wages of his hired help for the entire year or to pay the interest on a large sum of money—and, remember, this must go on from year to year. Nor is that all. A like discrepancy exists in the rates on the incoming merchandise that the farmer buys, which consequently is made so much more expensive by reason of the higher rate. Thus the settler in the far west labors under a very serious and twofold handicap compared with his more fortunately located brother in Southwestern Manitoba.

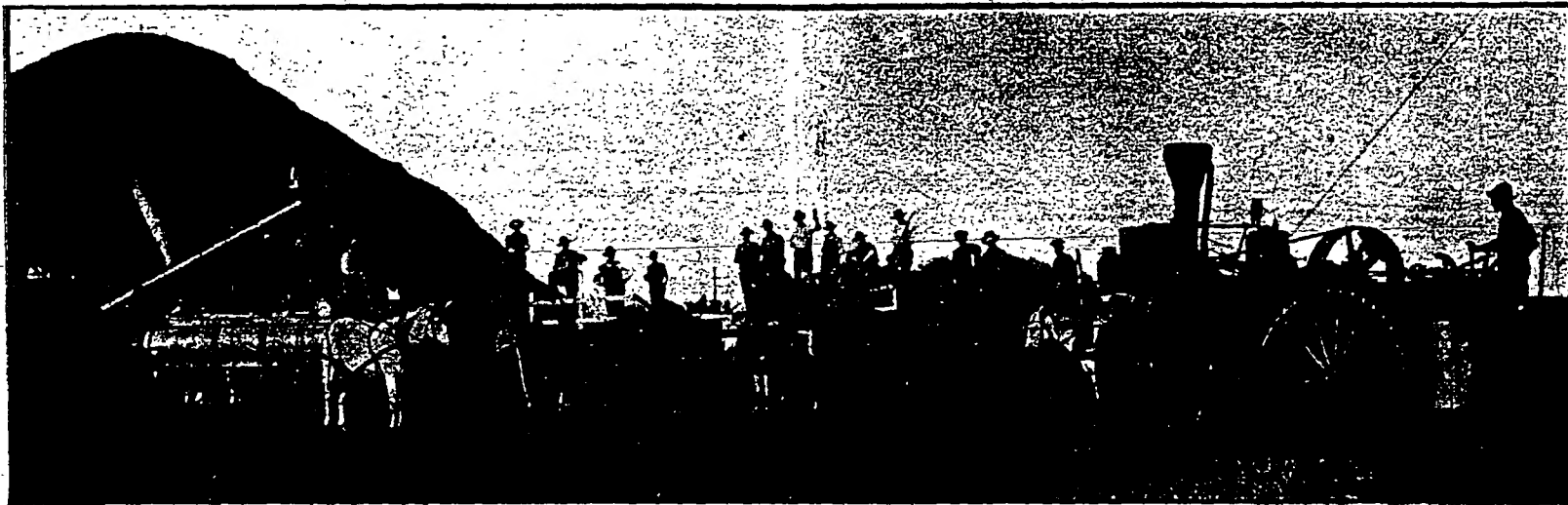
In the district included in this descriptive pamphlet, 24 x 36 miles, there are three parallel branches of the C. P. R. and another branch within a mile of the northern boundary and no part of the district is now at a greater distance than six miles from the railroad or from shipping elevators. There is also a likelihood of a road being built from north to the southern boundary to connect with the Hill system within a few years. This would undoubtedly not only furnish the very best of railway facilities but would also increase the value of lands in the district. Intending settlers should get in the swim here before a rise in values takes place.

The following table will show the elevator capacity in the several towns and villages in and bordering on Arthur County. These places may be readily found on the accompanying map.

Place	Elevators	Capacity	Place	Elevators	Capacity
Waskada.....	4	120,000	Gainsboro.....	4	70,000
Dalry.....	2	100,000	Lauder.....	4	100,000
Coulter.....	1	25,000	Baker's.....	1	25,000
Cameron.....	3	90,000	Wetterauer's..	1	25,000
Lyleton.....	3	75,000	Broomhill.....	1	30,000
Napinka.....	4	135,000	Eagleton.....	1	25,000
Melita.....	5	140,000	Pipestone.....	3	70,000
Elva.....	4	100,000	Reston.....	4	100,000
Pierson.....	4	100,000	Sinclair.....	3	80,000

A total storage capacity of 1,310,000 bushels.





THRESHING SCENE NEAR MELITA

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## Grasses, Etc.

Up to within a very few years ago the supply of hay for the use of the settlers was obtained from natural sources, the quantities of wild hay obtainable being ample and abundant, but as time goes on and more land brought under cultivation, more fences erected and more stock kept, the farmers have found it necessary to supplement the wild hay and in some cases to replace it altogether by cultivated varieties of grasses.

Timothy is successfully grown and yields from two to four tons to the acre, according to the season.

*Bromus Inermis*, popularly known as "Brome Grass", is grown quite extensively, especially for pasture, for which purpose it is extremely well adapted. being very leafy, starting early in the spring and remaining green until late in the fall, producing abundant pasture or hay of a very good quality.

But, probably the favorite grass with most of the farmers of Manitoba and which does particularly well in this district is the "Native Rye Grass". This grass is perhaps not quite so well adapted for pasture as the Brome but for hay it has no superior anywhere. It grows easily and abundantly and makes hay of the very finest quality, matures early, thus giving ample opportunity for plowing up the land on which it was grown comparatively early in the summer for a crop of wheat the following year when that is desired.

It has been demonstrated too that different kinds of clover can be grown in this district and several farmers are now going in for this legume and more of it is being sown each year. There is no doubt but that as settlement progresses and stock raising becomes more common, both of the beef and dairying varieties, that clover will have its place in the regular rotation of farm crops.

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## Fuel and Water

### FUEL

There are several points that a man who intends to buy land in a comparatively new country must satisfy himself upon before making a final choice of location, such as the quality of the soil, climate, accessibility to markets, educational advantages, if any, and many others that may be enumerated but there is no more important question for him to look into in these latitudes than the likelihood of being able to obtain a supply of fuel reasonably convenient and at a moderate cost.

Happily, for those who have settled and those who are yet to settle in the district described herein, the fuel question has been settled satisfactorily by Dame Nature herself and no one need be troubled on account of the scarcity of the supply. There are inexhaustible beds of Lignite Coal at and near the town of Estevan,



SOME OF E. F. DOBBYN'S PRIZE HEREFORDS

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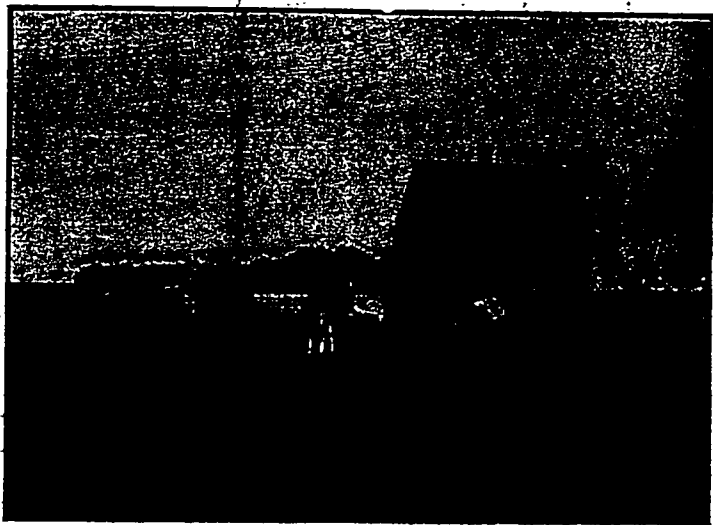
in Saskatchewan, distant some fifty miles west of the western boundary of Manitoba. This coal is distributed through the district over the three lines of railway mentioned on another page. There are also extensive beds of the same kind of coal immediately to the east of us on the slopes of the Turtle Mountains but which as yet have not been developed very materially.

In addition to these, large quantities of semi-Anthracite Coal are shipped down from the Galt mines in Alberta and sold in the towns and villages of Arthur County at about \$7.00 per ton and, furthermore, those who prefer to burn Pennsylvania Hard Coal in their furnaces may get their needs in that line supplied by the coal dealers who generally have it on hand.

Cordwood is also shipped in in large quantities and sold at reasonable prices. But many of the farmers are independent of these supplies of fuel altogether, as considerable areas of woodlands are to be found in the valleys of the Souris River and the various creeks emptying into it and yet others have started to grow their own fuel on the prairie by planting suitable varieties of trees which in a comparatively short space of time grow into a size large enough to be cut down and used as indicated.

### WATER

Another question that is likely to interest a prospective settler is "Whether there is a good supply of water in the neighborhood, or not?" We are in the fortunate position of being able to answer this question in the affirmative so far as Arthur County is concerned. As may be gathered from the mention made of the Souris



THE FARM HOME OF MR. JOHN MCKAGUE

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River and the creeks that traverse the district there is an abundance of water for stock purposes. Scattered here and there over the country are numerous springs of pure water, most of them running winter and summer, and, indeed, there are but very few spots where good water can not be found by digging from twelve to twenty-five feet or drilling down to shale at seventy feet. In a word an abundant supply of water for domestic use can be found on practically every farm in the County.

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## The Soil

The character of the soil is naturally a first consideration with the farmer, and that of the district outlined in the accompanying map is unexcelled and will compare favorably with any district between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains. It is what is known as a "Loam", over a deep clay subsoil. In texture it varies from "clayey" to "sandy", being all remarkably rich in "humus", this last element giving it unrivalled wheat producing capacity. The small admixture of grit usually found in the soil of this district renders it easy of cultivation and also tends to early ripening of grain crops, a very important feature. This is evidenced by the fact that this district never suffers from early frosts which are said to afflict other localities.

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# Arthur County

Arthur County is situated in the extreme south-west corner of the Province of Manitoba, having for its boundaries the Second Correction Line on the north, the County of Deloraine on the east, the International Boundary Line on the south and the Province of Saskatchewan on the west. It embraces the Rural Municipalities of Albert, Arthur and Edward and the incorporated Town of Melita, which is situated not far from the centre of the district, and is 24 miles from east to west by 36 miles from north to south. It may be said that this County is a part of the great prairie plateau extending from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, having a gentle undulation, sharing the general characteristics of the country for miles on all sides of it. The Souris River runs across the County extending in a north-easterly direction from the point where it crosses the International Boundary Line in Range 27 till it emerges again in Township 5, Range 26. On its way it receives the waters of several creeks which drain the adjacent country and afford splendid facilities for stock raising throughout that district and these are shown on the accompanying map. It may be readily seen from this that the supply of water is abundant and well distributed all over the County. In addition to that attention should be drawn to the fact that in the valleys of these creeks considerable timber is to be found, especially along the Souris River, which is valuable not only as a source of fuel and fencing material but also for the shelter it affords to stock both winter and summer. Wild fruits are also plentiful in these valleys which fact is an evidence that many varieties of domestic fruits may be profitably grown here with reasonable cultivation. The majority of the farmers who now live in the district have taken advantage of these favorable natural conditions and have gone into the breeding of live stock in its various branches. A few studs of pure bred horses, mostly Clydesdales, are to be found in the County. A number of herds of pure bred cattle of the different beef breeds flourish, while nearly every farmer keeps grade cattle varying in number according to his circumstances and location, and hog and poultry raising are common to all. It is needless to say that those who have made stock raising a part of their work have found it profitable and, as may be expected, more and more live stock is being raised every year. But although the breeding and raising of live stock has been an important and remunerative branch of agriculture in Arthur County as well as other parts of Western Canada, there is no doubt but that "Wheat is King" and the successful operations of hundreds of farmers in this County during the last twenty-five years prove conclusively that the climatic conditions, quality of soil, accessibility to markets and the enterprise of the people have all conspired to make the south-western corner of Manitoba one of the most favored spots for the production of the very best wheat that is sold in the world's markets. Immense quantities of oats and barley have also been grown and used in the feeding of the live stock already mentioned.

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## The Town of Melita

Melita is one of the most important towns on the Estevan branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway and is situated near the centre of Arthur County. The site of the town is on an elevation sloping gradually southward to the Souris River which is about half a mile distant. Melita has advantages over other towns, the location being one of its strong features, possessing as it does large shipping and storing facilities for grain and other produce. The keen competition in all lines of business gives the farmer the advantage of the closest prices in whatever he has to purchase. The commercial part of the town is made up of five large grain elevators, a grist mill of a daily capacity of 140 bbls., which creates a steady demand for high-grade No. 1 Hard which has made this district famous; two large lumber yards and a planing mill, pump,

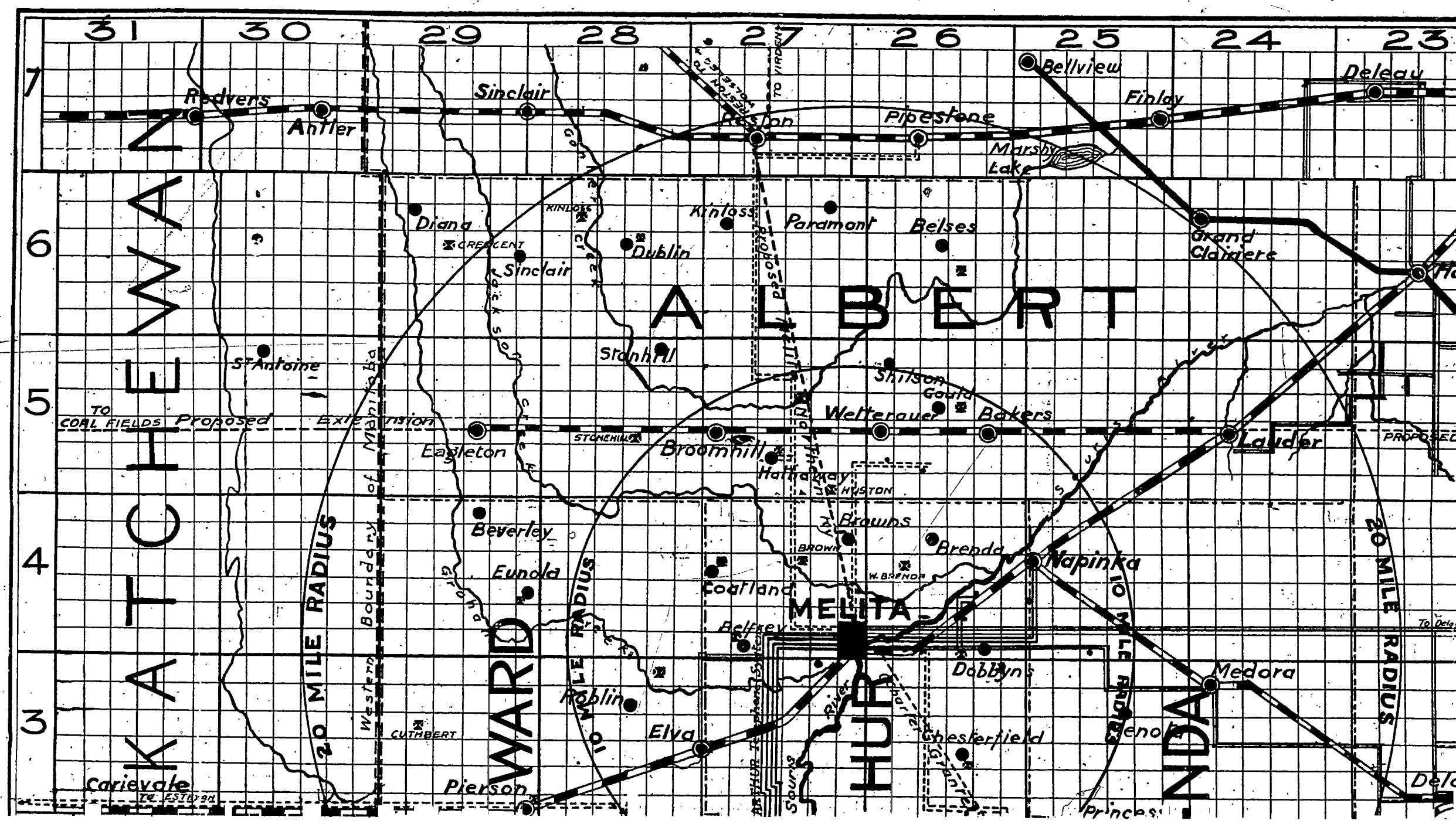
## Other Towns of the District

The other towns in the district and tributary to it are, Pierson, Lyleton, Elva, Napinka, Waskada, Cameron, Coulter, Dalny, Broomhill, Eagleton, Gainsboro, Reston, Pipestone and Sinclair, each of these towns being thriving centres, possessing public schools, churches, supply centres and market facilities for the surrounding districts and some of them have newspaper offices and chartered Banks.

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# MAPS OF ARTHUR COUNTY

Showing Its Location  
In The Richest Wheat-Growing  
Great Canadian



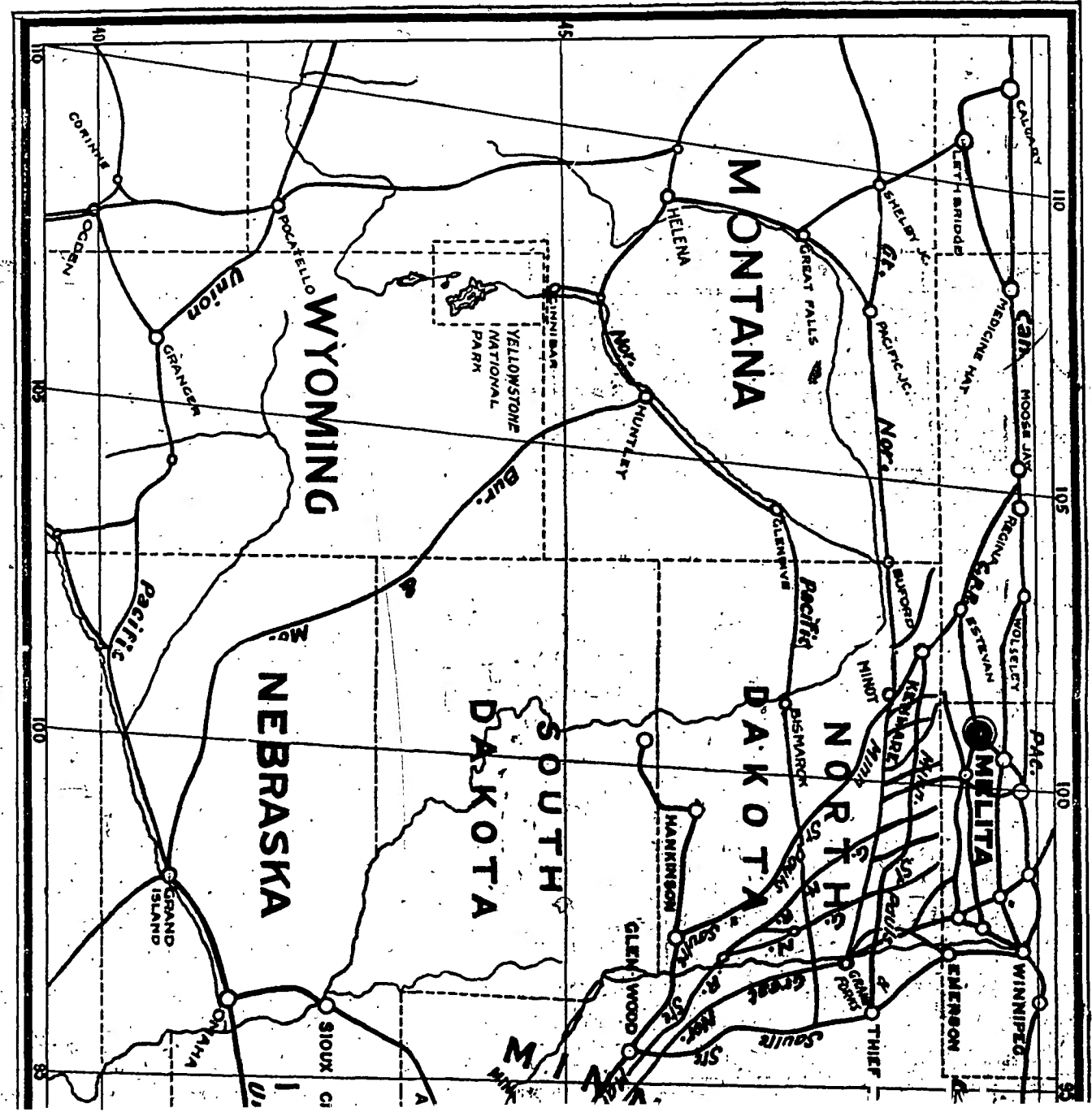
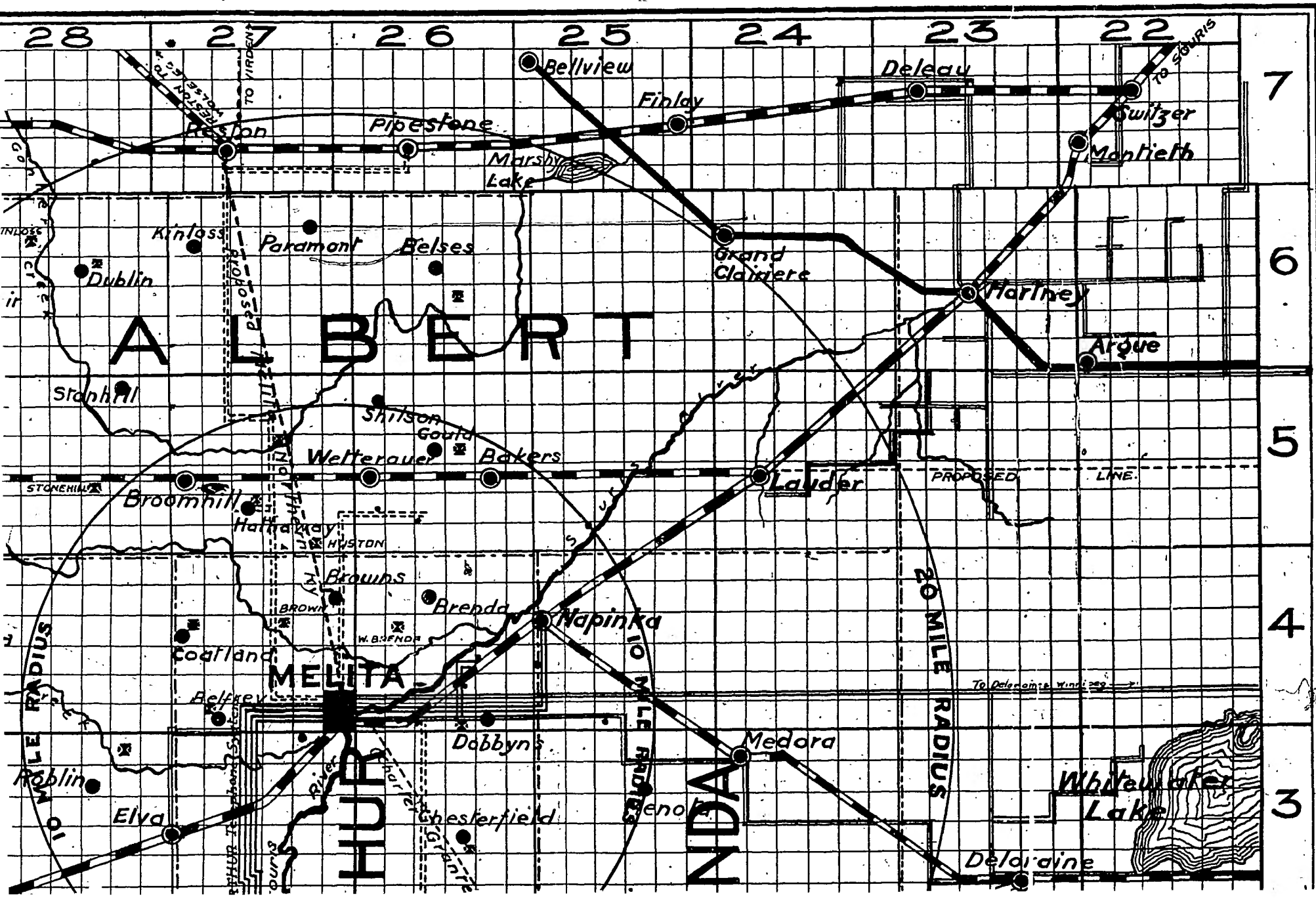
# MAPS OF ARTHUR DISTRICT

Showing Its Location

## In The Richest Wheat-Growing Area In The Great Canadian West

### Shall I Homestead or Buy Land?

This is a question that newcomers with a little money do not ask themselves frequently enough for their own good. There are in many parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba farms with some improvements in the way of buildings, fences and land ready for crop that would enable the newcomer to get some returns and a living for himself and family the first season. The trouble with land lust is that a person may get hold of a farm that does not suit him or he sees, when his judgment is cooler and more sane, farms that would suit him better. The West wants contented settlers, and if we are to have such, newcomers must not be in too great a hurry to settle down. Briefly the newcomer with some money and experience will do better at first to go on the improved farms. —Farmer's Advocate, June 19th, 1907.





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Melita is also the county seat for the County of Arthur and is presided over by a Mayor and four Councillors. It is estimated to have a population of about 1,000. It boasts of a first-class telephone service, the head offices of the Company being situated here, with lines radiating over most of the County and enjoying long distance connection throughout Manitoba over the wires of the Bell Telephone Co. and with the United States by means of the North-Western Telephone Co. via West Hope, N. D. This local system is extending as rapidly as stock can be sold to provide the means of construction. This in itself is a great advantage to people residing in the rural districts.

As a pleasant residential centre Melita is hard to beat, a large number of retired farmers having bought or built houses in the town within the last six years. This speaks volumes for the surrounding country as it is only sixteen years since the first railway reached the district and the town was first started.

The favorable location of the town affords splendid drainage facilities, rendering it a particularly healthful place of residence.

